

is Mary really right?

read>

Luke 10:38-42

But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing (v.40).

more>

Read Matthew 7:24-27 to see what it means to spend time with Jesus and do what He says.

next>

Why is it important for you to spend time with Jesus? What are some practical ways you can do so throughout the day?

When I was 12 years old, my maths teacher showed me two separate lines that had arrows at their ends. One had the arrows pointed inward like this: ><. The other had the arrows pointed outward like this: <>. My teacher asked me which of the two lines was longer and I answered that it was the one with the arrows pointed inward. He took out a ruler and measured them, showing me that they were identical in length! I took another look and—despite my teacher having just proved that they were the same length—stubbornly clung to the belief that my answer had been the right one.

I feel the same way whenever I read about Mary and Martha. Jesus makes it clear that what Mary chose to do was better at the time (Luke 10:41-42). But no small part of me still disagrees, believing that it was Martha who was the better and harder-working sister (v.40). *Why would Jesus say that Mary was in the right? Wasn't Martha being diligent?*

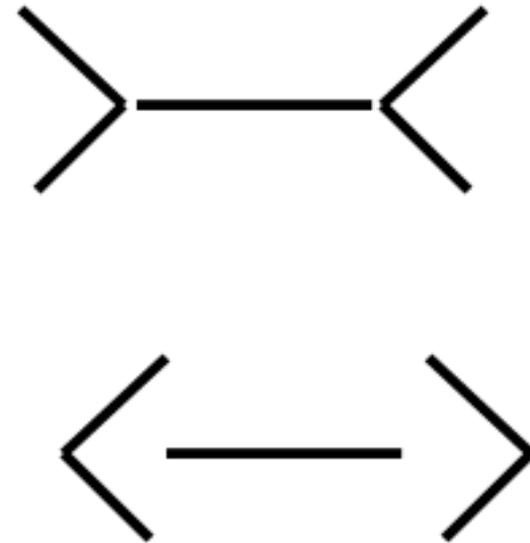
There are many ways to understand Jesus' answer, but one of the most convincing explanations comes when He says Martha was too "distracted" by all the preparations. The work she was doing was not evil in itself, but that work was keeping her from doing the one

thing she needed to do—something that all believers in Jesus are called to do—*spend time with Jesus*.

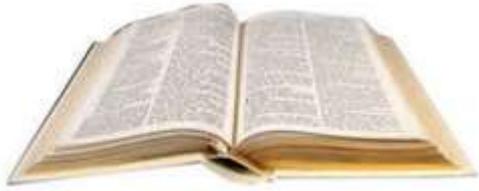
I rarely look at spending time with Jesus in this light—as being the most important thing I'm called to do. But this practice shouldn't be surprising because, in the account of the transfiguration from Matthew 17, God the Father instructs us to do one thing and one thing alone: *listen to Jesus!* (v.5). By His power, may we tune out the distractions today and spend time with Him!

—Peter Chin

Taken from
"Our Daily Journey"

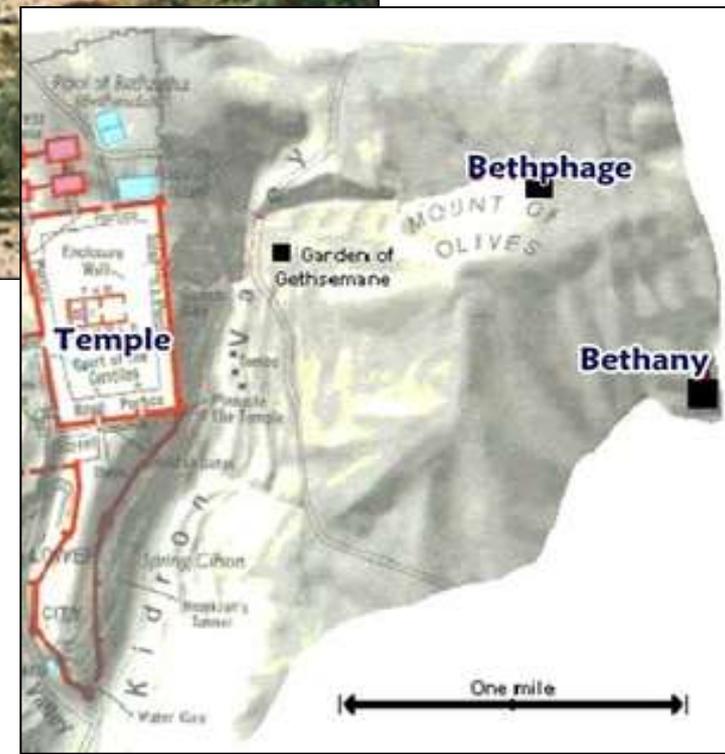


At the home of Martha and Mary



Luke 10:38 – 42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed--or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."



Bethany

He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.



Something Good !

A warm welcome



She wants to give him the best



Spot the difference !

between two translations

New International Version

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

New King James Version

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Does “ALSO” make a difference?

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

NIV

Luke 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

NKJV

“Also”

could mean

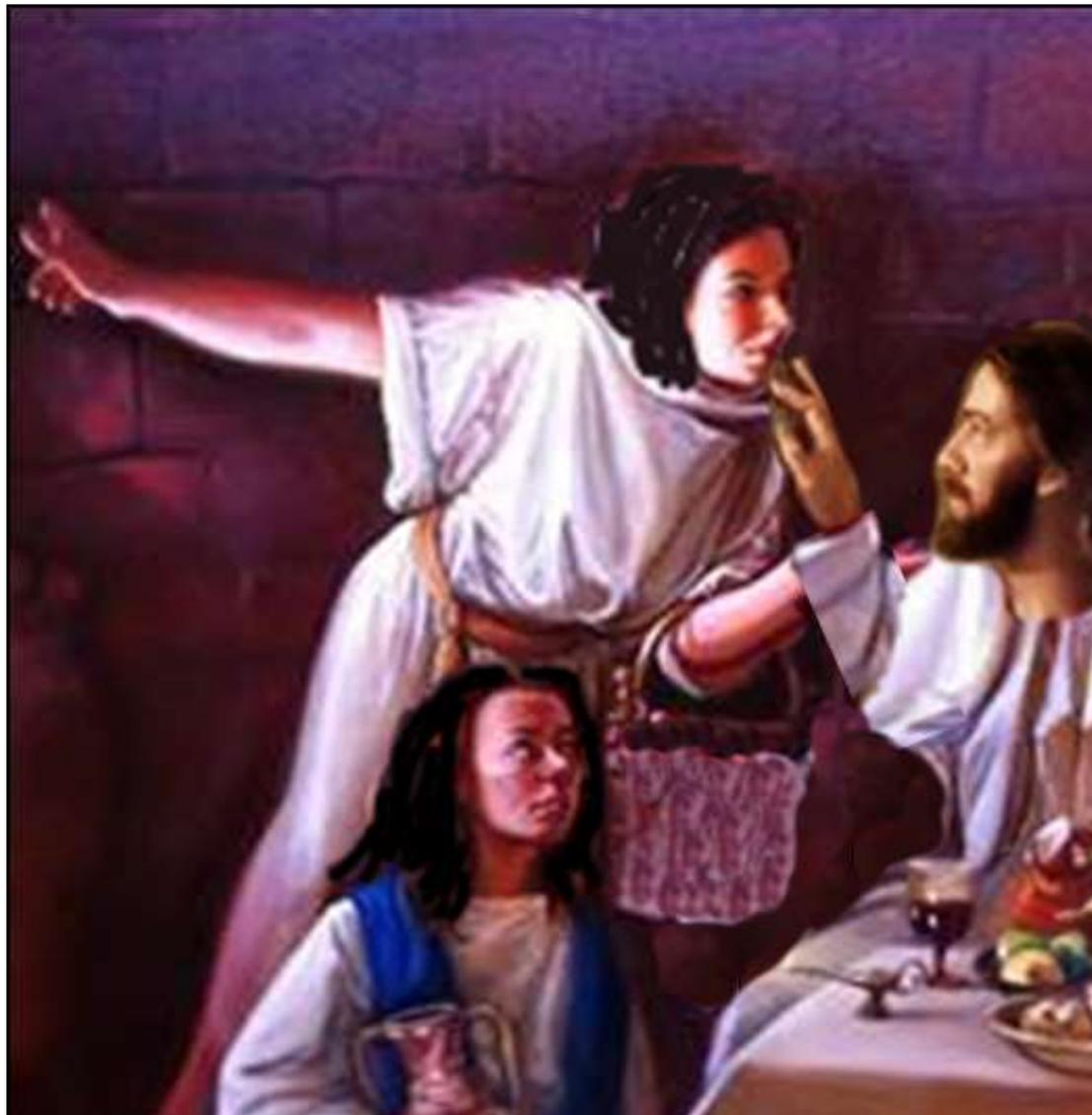
- 1, just to emphasis that she sat there
- 2, as well as his disciples
- 3, after doing her bit of the preparations

What do you think it means ?

Lord, don't you care ...



Martha, Martha ...



Distractions



**If what you are doing takes you away from
what you should do,
then it is probably the wrong thing to do.**

Distractions

**Making versus doing
work**



Assumptions



**If what you are doing takes away your peace,
then it is probably the wrong thing to do
or the wrong way to do it.**

**And when you
get exhausted ...**



Find a target (2 here)

Playing the blame game



Priorities !!!

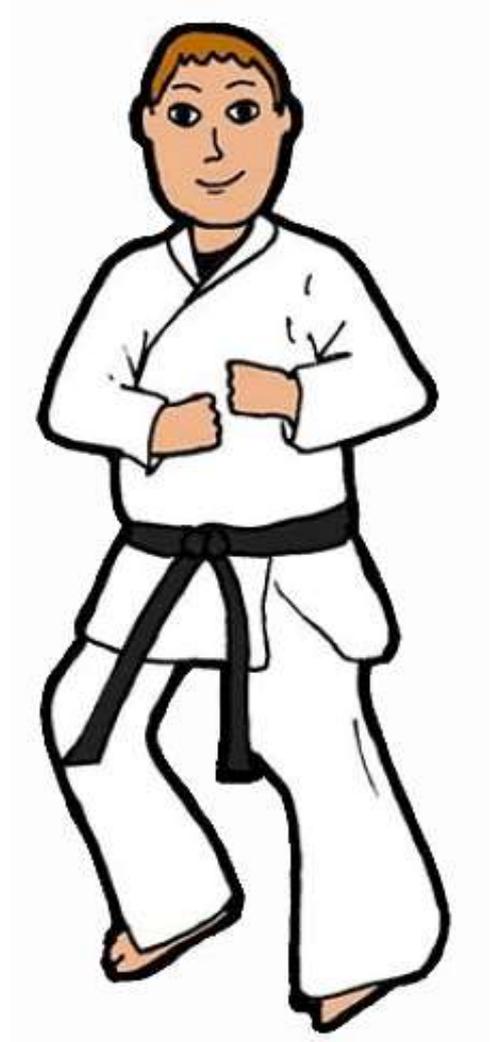
Spending this time
(not repeatable)

What lasts longer ?



Self defence not needed

“Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

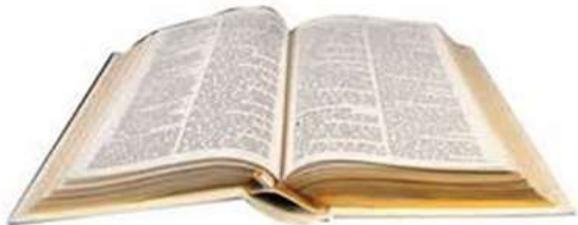


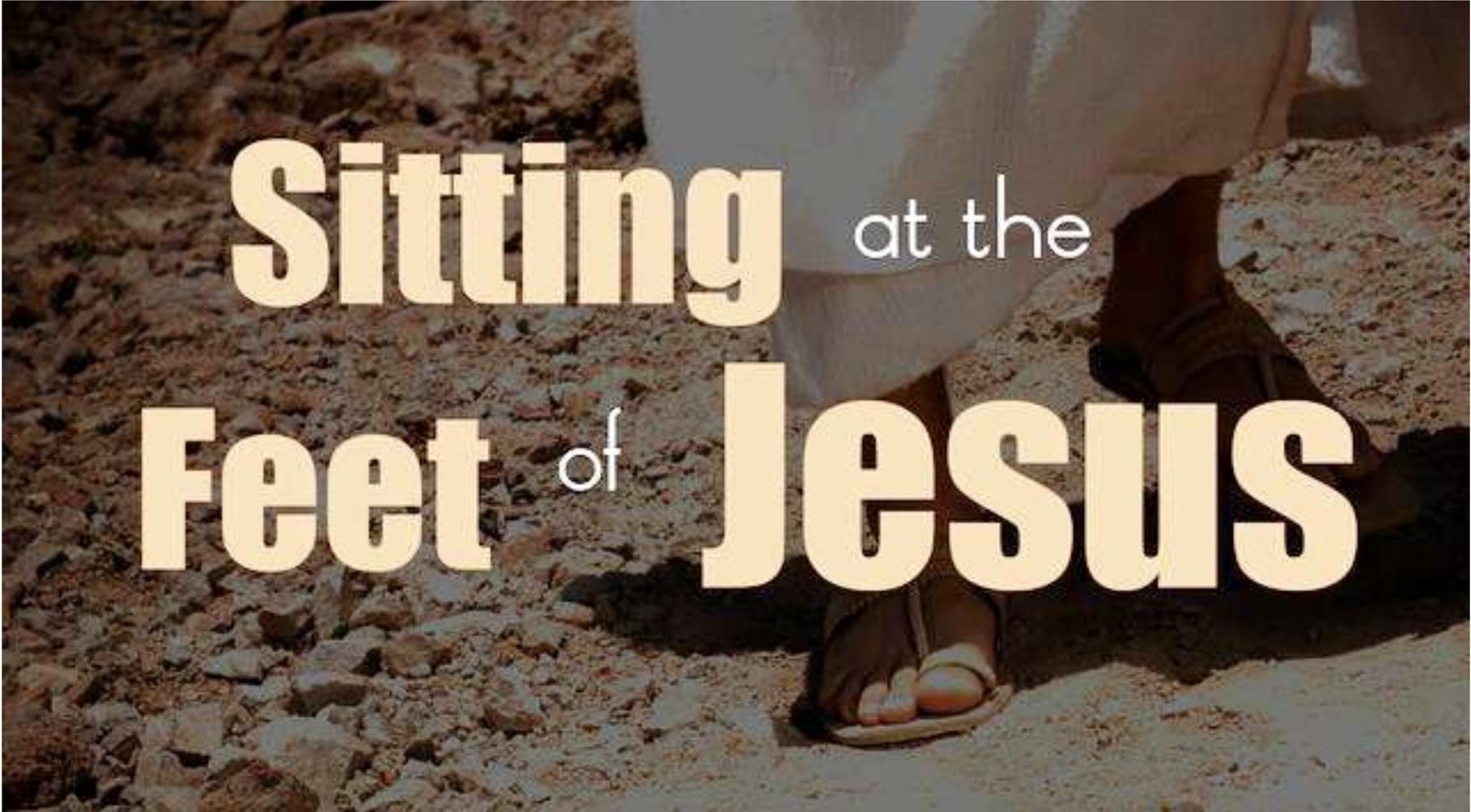
What would you advise Martha to do ?



Would you take it yourself ?

**How can you re-order your day to
include time with Jesus?**





Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

Contrast to the previous passage on Good Samaritan